

SPORT PARK NOTES

by Robert Vint

The Best of 1941

Unless someone has been tampering with my record book, I have seen all the baseball players in action for at least twelve games, and have talked to managers, players, and fans. Now that it's all over, a review of the season may be in order.

All For Fun

All the games that I saw were played by teams that really wanted to win. Competition was keen, but the most striking feature was the players' attitudes: they played the game purely for fun. If they felt like giving the fans a good laugh by clowning or pulling a tricky play they gambled on their chances and put some fun in their games. The fans caught this spirit too, because frequently a game was held up while some overcame spectator broke out in a feverish dance when one of his pet players drove out a homer.

Laveist Tops

The best baseball player I saw was 190 pounds of solid man named Laveist. He was the self-styled Joe DiMaggio of the league. He had a little something none of the others had, and I suspect it was "ham", show-off, the desire to play to the grandstand. I've never known a champion who didn't have it. Laveist was a team player, yes, but somewhere was the positive conviction that he, DiMaggio, was part of the entertainment scheme, and that he should never fail to swing at least two bats in indian-club style before taking his cuts at the ball. Each time he strode to bat he knew his public wanted a homer, and he amassed a total of six homers, two triples, and three doubles for the season, which is tops in any industrial league.

The best player for one duty that I saw was Victor Hodge, stellar Artraco first-baseman. He wasn't much of a hitter but he was a gem at the keystone sack, and many a game he saved for Artraco. He had a touch of exhibitionist in him, too, and he loafed except when he was called on to perform his specialty. Then he knew the crowd was watching him, and he delivered with a one-hand stab at the ball and the crowd would rise in the bleachers as he held the ball high in the air to hear the umpire call the baserunner out.

San Lucas Good Sports

The best-behaved ball club to compete was San Lucas. They lost and won their games gracefully. This squad's playing was like the little girl with a curl on her forehead — when she was good she was



1—The All-Stars, cream of the crop among the teams defeated by Artraco for the Lago Sport Park baseball championship. Front row, left to right, Jose Bryson, San Lucas, Kaizer Legran, Lucky Strike, Angel Gonzalez, San Lucas, and Emilio Bryson, Red Sox. Back row, Nestor Pantin and George Laveist, Lucky Strike, Robert Convenencia, San Lucas, Carlos Buntin, Red Sox, Felipe Miguel, Lucky Strike, Teddy Nicholson and Valentine Laveist, Red Sox, Vicente Vanterpool, San Lucas, and Bill Dowers, Lucky Strike.



2—Waiting for the pitch, and it would be difficult to decide which of the three interested parties shows the greatest concentration, Umpire Robert Vint, Artraco catcher Luther Pantophlet, or Red Sox slugger Valentine Laveist.

3—An All-Star pair in action: Jose Bryson, at left, pitched for the All-Stars in the final game of the season. Carlos Buntin, right, was scheduled to pitch part of the game, but instead went in to relieve Felipe Miguel at catch.



4—The two players who did most of the pitching to carry Artraco to a six-straight-victory series were Gaston Arrendell, left, and Tony Bryson.

very very good, but when she was bad she was horrid.

The most under-rated player I saw was a chap named Luther Pantophlet, Artraco catcher. "Big Boy", as he is called, never hit a homer. All he had to do was to strap on his shin protectors, clamp his mask on his head, take up his big glove, and start his line of chatter that kept his team mates on their toes constantly. Fans will remember that the only game Artraco lost was the first one, when Luther wasn't in the lineup.

I won't try to name the best coach, for one couldn't choose among a group that kept their boys interested in the game to the extent that all teams bettered their fielding and batting averages as the season drew to a close.

